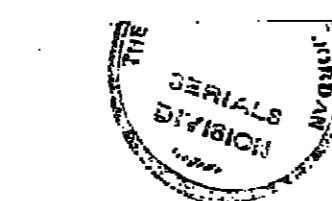


## PLO prepares for disputed meeting

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) prepared Monday for a first and controversial meeting of its Executive Committee in the Gaza Strip, despite the refusal to attend of several members opposed to the self-rule deal. At least six members in Tunis and Amman have rejected Tuesday's scheduled session of the 18-strong committee in Gaza, amid warnings that Palestinian unity would be jeopardised. Seven members are already in the Strip but five more are required for a quorum. If 12 members fail to turn up, the committee would sit a day earlier with a quorum of nine, according to PLO rules. "We are keen on having everybody attend," said Sami Ghosheh, labour minister in the Palestinian National Authority and an Executive Committee member. Tuesday will also be a public holiday for independence day, marking the proclamation of a Palestinian state on Nov. 15, 1988. Mr. Ghosheh said invitations were sent out to all Executive Committee members, but he did not know exactly how many would attend. PLO leader Yasser Arafat had ensured all the formalities for their entry into Gaza had been carried out.



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## Iraq notifies U.N. of recognition of Kuwait, but sanctions unchanged

Aziz hands over documents to Albright; biological weapon inspectors say gaps remain

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Monday handed over documents on Iraq's official recognition of Kuwait to U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who received them as president of the U.N. Security Council.

Ms. Albright said, however, Security Council sanctions imposed against Iraq in 1990 will continue unchanged.

Speaking to reporters after a 60-day review of the sanctions, which bar the export of Iraqi oil, she said: "We met, reviewed the sanctions regime and decided to continue it without change."

Earlier, Mr. Aziz told reporters: "I asked the president of the council to circulate these documents to the members of the council and we hope that the council will act in a positive manner to this important step on the part of Iraq."

The Iraqi Parliament and Revolutionary Command Council last Thursday recognised Kuwait as an independent state within U.N.-demarcated borders.

Ms. Albright, before meeting Mr. Aziz, told reporters: "I am looking forward to meeting Tareq Aziz as president of the Security Council and I am looking forward to his finally handing over a letter which recognises

Iraq after all these long years of them promising to do that."

The documents included a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein as head of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, a declaration by the Iraqi National Assembly and the edition of the national gazette in which they were published.

Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and its borders was a key condition for lifting the U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of the Gulf neighbour in August 1990.

Even before the Security Council began consultations on the Iraqi sanctions, a U.S. diplomat predicted they would be renewed for another six months with no statement by the council on Baghdad's decision to recognise Kuwait.

Mr. Aziz shook hands with Ms. Albright, handed over a folder with the documents and exchanged a few words. "It was a formal meeting. Its main purpose was to hand over the documents and a couple of minutes were enough," said Mr. Aziz.

"The council has imposed sanctions on Iraq for certain reasons and those reasons do not exist any more," he told reporters.

It highlighted Iraqi troop movements toward its southern border with Kuwait last month as evidence of Bagh-

dad's bad faith.

The United States wants

"to make clear to the world that recognition of Kuwait is only one piece of what has happened in the last 60 days," said James Rubin, Ms. Albright's spokesman.

"What has also happened

in the last 60 days is that Iraq

sent menacing troop move-

ments toward Kuwait, thereby

raising serious doubts about

their serious intentions," he said.

Russia and France have

argued that the oil embargo

on Iraq should be lifted after

a six-month testing period of

U.N. monitoring system to ensure Baghdad's long-term

disarmament.

Following a Russian di-

plomatic initiative, President

Saddam signed the decree

Thursday officially recognis-

ing Kuwait, which Baghdad

had claimed as its 19th prov-

ince.

In the statement, Iraq de-

clared it recognised Kuwaiti

sovereignty, its territorial in-

tegrity and political inde-

pendence. It recognised the

borders delineated after the

war by a U.N. commission,

and pledged to respect their

inviolability.

The United States, howev-

er, has led the opposition to

lifting the sanctions — such

as return of political pris-

oners, respect for human rights,

the return of Kuwaiti prop-

erty and payment of war repa-

rations.

Meanwhile a senior U.N.

(Continued on page 7)

## PNA pursues Gaza crackdown

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) crackdown on Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza, launched after a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli officers, is likely to be long-term, officials from both groups said on Monday.

"I am sure this time is completely different than what has happened in the past," Freih Abu Meadeen, in charge of justice for the self-rule administration, told Israel army radio.

The PNA will do everything in its power to halt further bombings, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview published Monday, but he admitted they would go on.

"These attacks will go on for a certain time," Mr. Arafat told Israel's *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper.

"We will do everything to try to stop them with the means at our disposal. We will not allow the law to be broken," he said.

The attacks are "an attempt to ridicule the authority and the Palestinian people," said Arafat.

"We will not allow the peace process to blow up," said Mr. Arafat, adding that he was "optimistic, because we have committed ourselves

down the road of no-return."

Stepping up the crack-

down, Palestinian police on

Monday enforced a new ban

on street protests and pro-

ceeded to memorise march

for a suicide bomber.

Police set up roadblocks,

searched vehicles and turned

away cars and buses carrying

supporters of the Islamic

Jihad faction.

Islamic Jihad cancelled the

march because of low turn-

out.

However, police stayed aw-

ay Monday from the wake

for the bomber, Hisham Hamad, who rode a bicycle into an Israeli army check-

point on Friday and set off the

explosives on his body, kill-

ing himself and three Israeli

officers.

Some 600 supporters

gathered at Hamad's house

on Monday and cheered

when a man over a louds-

peaker said: "Hisham, our

beloved, your revenge will

soon take place in Tel Aviv."

Meanwhile, a senior PNA

official said Islamic Jihad's

chief ideologue, Sheikh

Abdullah Shami, was still on

the run, dismissing earlier

police reports that he was

detained Monday.

Police arrested 20 more

Islamic Jihad members dur-

ing the night, bringing to 180

(Continued on page 7)

## Christopher trip on hold — Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has delayed his return to the Middle East awaiting a more detailed Syrian response to peace pro-

posals, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday.

Mr. Peres had said Mr. Christopher intended to visit the region during November in a further attempt to bridge the gap with Syria.

Israel has offered to pull out from most of the Golan Heights over about four years and to negotiate a final withdrawal line in return for a peace treaty and full diplomatic and trade ties.

In recent days, statements of Israeli leaders have suggested that Israel has switched more of its diplomatic attention away from the Syrian track and towards talks with the Palestinians about expanding autonomy in the West Bank.

Mr. Peres, however, rejected the idea that talks with the Syrians should be cut off or delayed until after Israel's next scheduled elections in November 1996.

"As long as we can negotiate, let's negotiate. Maybe

(Continued on page 7)

Mr. Peres told reporters: "The Syrians are very slow," Mr. Peres told reporters.

The United States has reached the conclusion that the Syrian response (to pro-

posals) is not sufficient. We need a much more detailed response."

Israeli officials had said Mr. Christopher intended to visit the region during November in a further attempt to bridge the gap with Syria.

Mr. Peres went on: "The way they negotiate, not only the time they negotiate is counter-productive. Maybe

(Continued on page 7)

## Maze of Israeli manoeuvring in 'early empowerment'

By Lewis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WITH THE transfer of civil powers in health, tourism and social development to the Palestinians in the West Bank, more black, green, red and white Palestinian flags will be hoisted on buildings, that used to be once Israeli civil administration offices.

But many Palestinians are already wondering if the symbolic significance of the transfer really reflects or embodies a meaningful change that the early empowerment agreement reached in May 1994, was supposed to bring about to the Palestinians.

For one, the agreement, as the transfer of education two months ago has practically illustrated, did not involve a meaningful delegation of authority but rather a limited transfer of responsibilities.

The transfer of educational affairs did not stop Palestinians schools from closing while the Palestine National Authority (PNA) assumed control over daily affairs but not land and resources.

Initially early empowerment was supposed to start simultaneously with the setting up of the PNA, in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, but it was delayed by Israel for months.

Proponents of early empowerment argue that control over life is a prelude to control over land and resources, especially that it is part of a transi-

tional period towards the final status negotiations.

But a major flaw of early empowerment, as even some Palestinian negotiators now concede, is that it does not only fragment the peace process but the interim period itself — as it is now divided to many stages that are being applied separately but not simultaneously.

Consequently, the PNA is having to run educational, and soon, tourism, health and social welfare without having any real authority in the West Bank or the power to enact the necessary legislation or to enforce policies.

## France to assist S. Arabia ensure border security

PARIS (Agencies) — France and Saudi Arabia will open talks soon on details of a bilateral accord on security along the Saudi borders signed in Riyadh at the weekend during a visit by French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, officials said Monday.

Mr. Pasqua and his Saudi counterpart Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz signed the accord on Saturday. Under it, the French interior ministry will assist in stepping up security along Saudi Arabia's 11,000 kilometres of land borders with its Gulf neighbours.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr. Pasqua, who met King Fahd during his visit, said their talks dealt with the situation of Muslims in France.

He said the king "stressed the importance of Muslims practising their rites when they settle in any country and to respect the laws of the countries they settle in."

Mr. Pasqua said: "France wants to organise the Muslim community so they can practise their rites freely and without infringing on the country's laws."

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Mr. Pasqua upon his arrival on Friday as expressing France's opposition to exploiting religion for political ends by Muslims living there.

On Sunday night Mr. Pasqua told journalists that France wanted to contribute to "regional stability, of which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an essential element."

French industrial circles said last week that France was offering four-wheel-drive and armoured vehicles, radar equipment, coastal patrol boats and surveillance planes as well as sophisticated electronic camera and transmission equipment.

Mr. Pasqua last met with Prince Nayef in January in the Western Sahara. The two men met twice in 1986 and 1987, when Mr. Pasqua was also interior minister.

Mr. Pasqua said the agreement was signed with Prince Nayef did not include arms deals.

He told a news conference the memorandum of understanding signed "does not include security arms sales. It is to develop the border guards" for the kingdom.

But he said his visit would strengthen friendships ties be-

tween France and Saudi Arabia and "produce good and positive results."

The French daily *Le Monde* said on Thursday Mr. Pasqua's talks would cover arms sales and would centre on ways in which France could contribute to the defence, protection and surveillance of Saudi borders.

It quoted defence industry sources as saying France would seek to sell Saudi Arabia armoured vehicles, radar, coastal surveillance vessels, helicopters and light observation aircraft for border surveillance.

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## King's birthday celebrated

A decorated convoy of vehicles parade through Amman streets (top) and youngsters dance marking the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein on Monday. The day was a national holiday, with all government offices, public institutions, banks and schools observing it. Celebrations were reported from all governorates of the Kingdom (see page one) (Petra photos)



## U.N. plans immunisation in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — U.N. agencies will launch a mass immunisation campaign this week to save children's lives in war-ravaged Afghanistan which has the world's second highest infant mortality rate, U.N. officials said on Monday.

The campaign, organised by the Afghan public health ministry in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the French relief agency Avicen and other aid groups, begins on Saturday.

The U.N. secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, said he had appealed to warning Afghan leaders for a ceasefire during the first stage of the operation.

"I've had positive letters from several leaders but it doesn't necessarily mean there will be a ceasefire," he said.

WHO representative Ashour Gebreel said radio messages would proclaim a "jihad" (holy war) against diseases which kill children and ask fighters to lay down their arms for a week.

According to the WHO, malnutrition and infections have combined with low im-

munisation coverage during the last 15 years of warfare to give Afghanistan an infant mortality rate of 184 per 1,000 live births, the second highest in the world.

"One third of these deaths are to vaccine-preventable diseases," the U.N. agency says.

WHO medical officer Mohammed Jasseh told Reuters nearly 9,000 health workers and volunteers had been mobilised across Afghanistan to carry out the first round of the campaign.

The aim was to vaccinate 970,000 children aged under five against polio. Children under two years would also be vaccinated against measles. About 760,000 mothers would get tetanus shots.

Children would be immunised against other diseases, such as tuberculosis, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough in future rounds planned for April and May next year.

The eventual goal is to immunise 1.9 million children aged below five and 2.1 million mothers of child-bearing age, or 80 per cent of the target population.

Iran has promised to contribute eight million doses of polio vaccine, including three

million doses which were due to be flown to Islamabad on Monday, Gebreel said.

Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, Ghulam Reza Hadadi, told a news conference in Kabul on Sunday he would be discussing a temporary ceasefire for the immunisation campaign with President Burhanuddin Rabbani and opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

He said Iran was also planning to buy blankets, clothes and food locally for distribution to needy people on both sides of the divided Afghan capital, starting from next week.

**ICRC airlift extended**

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has decided to extend for several days an ongoing airlift of medicine for wounded in Afghanistan, an official said here Monday.

The airlift is being carried out with the assistance of Indonesia.

"President Suharto of Indonesia has ordered the C-130 to be at our disposal until the end of this relief operation," said an ICRC spokesman.

The U.N., which has a clear mandate to assist Afghanistan, refuses to send its foreign staff to Kabul," said an irate foreign aid worker who declined to be named.

ferrying medical and other humanitarian supplies here, was scheduled for two flights north of Kabul Monday.

It will carry some 30 tonnes of supplies from the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad to Bagram airbase, 50 kilometres north of Kabul.

The Red Cross airlift began on Friday, with one load of medical supplies going to Bagram airbase, controlled by President Rabbani, and the other to the Logar airbase held by Mr. Hekmatyar.

The Red Cross expressed its satisfaction with cooperation from all the warring factions here.

"This airlift, accepted by all the parties, gives new hope to the thousands of war-wounded who are treated in and around Kabul," said Peter Stocker, head of Kushti Red Cross.

Expatriates working for the half dozen aid agencies now present in Kabul are critical of the United Nations for failing to attempt a similar relief operation in Afghanistan.

"The U.N., which has a clear mandate to assist Afghanistan, refuses to send its foreign staff to Kabul," said an irate foreign aid worker who declined to be named.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Histadrut to refund Palestinian unions

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's general labour federation, the Histadrut, has agreed to reimburse Palestinian unions with half the dues paid by Palestinian workers in Israel. A Histadrut spokesman said the accord, to be signed officially in Oslo in December, was drawn up in Gaza by Histadrut deputy chief Amir Peretz, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and union leaders from the autonomous Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank. Under the accord, Histadrut will return to Palestinian unions one per cent contributions paid by Palestinian workers in Israel, retroactively from September 1993, the date the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles was signed in Washington. The funds will be used to finance Palestinian union activities and professional training courses. In a year's time new talks will be held to increase the amount transferred to the Palestinians, the spokesman said, without specifying how much money had been received in contributions. Histadrut has more than one million Israeli members. The spokesman said it had also set up a committee with Palestinian unions to fund joint projects.

### At least 100 feared dead in Somalia floods

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The United Nations has sent emergency relief aid to southern Somalia where at least 100 people are feared to have drowned in flash floods. U.N. and Somali sources said Monday. "Emergency relief assistance is being sent to Somalia's Shabelle and Juba regions where torrential rains have submerged farms and uprooted a number of people from their homes," said a communiqué issued by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). The U.N.'s special envoy to Somalia, Victor Ghebo, visited the affected areas Saturday, ordered UNOSOM's aid department and non-governmental organisations willing to participate. The World Food Programme is expected to supply food, UNICEF tents and pumping equipment while UNOSOM troops have carried thousands of sandbags to the flood-swamped areas, UNOSOM said.

### Militants shoot dead grocer in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a Christian grocer and wounded his brother in southern Egypt, police said. Samy Kamal Naguib died immediately and his brother was taken to a hospital, said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The attackers fled after the Sunday night attack on the dead man's store. The incident took place in Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo. Militants seeking to turn Egypt into an Islamic state have targeted police, government officials, members of the Coptic Christian minority and foreign tourists. In the 2½-year campaign of violence, more than 450 people have been killed, many of them in southern Egypt which is a stronghold of the radicals.

### Iranian killed by sword in Bucharest

BUCHAREST (AFP) — An Iranian national was stabbed to death with a sabre over the weekend in Bucharest, police here said Monday adding that the incident could have been politically motivated. They said that Assadi Mohammad Ali, 39, was stabbed through the heart Saturday by an unidentified assailant while in an apartment in the Romanian capital and died later of his injuries in hospital. "As in any investigation we are pursuing every lead including a political lead," said a police official who asked not to be named. He said Ali had entered Romania legally, but he would not disclose how long he had been in the country or for what reason. Romanian news reports, citing no sources, said Ali was an Iranian dissident accompanying a relative of the former Shah of Iran.

### Comoros suspends recognition of Israel

PARIS (R) — The Comoros Islands, an Islamic republic in the Indian Ocean and a member of the Arab League, said on Sunday it was suspending indefinitely a decision taken just days ago to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel. "Normalisation will occur only after a settlement of questions at the heart of the Middle East conflict," the republic said in a statement issued in Paris. "This is why President Said Mohammad Djohar has decided that the agreement undertaken on Nov. 10 between the Federal Republic of Comoros and Israel will have to await such progress before taking effect," the statement said. The statement said that normalisation should be put off until peace agreements have been reached with Syria and Lebanon in exchange for the return of their occupied territories and a solution has been reached on the future status of Jerusalem that is acceptable to the Palestinians. The two sides had agreed to diplomatic ties at a formal signing ceremony last Thursday in Paris. President Djohar himself signed the agreement for Comoros while Ambassador to France Yehuda Lancry signed on behalf of Israel. The republic, a former French colony, had no previous ties with Israel.

### Israeli army closes West Bank school

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Israeli army closed a West Bank school on Monday, for the first time since the Palestinians took charge of their own education system in September, military officials said. The army shut the school in the town of Ramallah for 24 hours after students repeatedly pelted passing Israeli cars with rocks.

### Turkish president to visit Georgia

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel will make an official one-day visit to Georgia Tuesday, his press department announced Sunday. The visit comes at the invitation of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister. Mr. Demirel and Mr. Shevardnadze will hold a news conference at the end of their talks and after separate meetings of Turkish and Georgian government officials.

## PNA escalates conflict with Islamic groups in Gaza

By Neil Macfarquhar  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — The freshly whitewashed walls that were the hallmark of Yasser Arafat's new administration have given way to even fresher paint proclaiming holy war against Israel.

"We are the sons of the Islamic holy war," red paint screams, boasting of the latest suicide bombing that left three Israeli officers dead. "We explode the heads of the Jews and travel on them to paradise."

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), worried that hardliners will sink the peace process and drag Gaza's internal stability down with it, is escalating its confrontation with them.

"The Palestinians are threatened with destruction from within this time," said Gaza psychiatrist Dr. Eyad Sarraj.

At least 160 Islamic activists have been jailed in two days, and the leaders of Isla-

mic Jihad went into hiding.

There were reports of gunfire in one neighbourhood when Palestinian police began searching. The government also moved to prevent a repeat of the huge outpouring for Islamic activist Hani Abed, whose Nov. 2 car-bomb death was widely blamed on Israel.

Mourners chased Arafat from his funeral. At later rallies, activists fired their guns in the air while men covered in white sheets — symbolic of their desire to carry out suicide operations — marched among throngs of chanting adherents.

The Palestinian National Authority is clearly worried that such outpourings will further weaken their already poor image.

"They are crossing the red line by these demonstrations, with M-16 rifles, the Kalashnikovs, this Iranian style," PNA Justice Minister Freih Al-Badeh said Sunday on Israel Television, declaring that some activists would re-

main in jail.

To try to ward off any similar outpourings, the government is trying to outlaw political rallies, and police buried the body of 21-year-old suicide bomber Hani Abed at night without informing his family.

At the wake, friends and Islamic Jihad supporters warned that a showdown was inevitable if the government tried to block attacks against Israeli targets.

Israel forces left Gaza town in May when autonomy started, but they still control the main highways used by 4,000 Jewish settlers. Gazans need an Israeli permit to get out of the strip. That is one reason the Friday attack at a key crossroads by the suicide cyclist was popular and the subsequent arrests were not shown up.

Israelis forces left Gaza town in May when autonomy started, but they still control the main highways used by 4,000 Jewish settlers. Gazans need an Israeli permit to get out of the strip. That is one reason the Friday attack at a key crossroads by the suicide cyclist was popular and the subsequent arrests were not shown up.

"Our brother did not do this against kids or old people. He did it against soldiers. That is not terrorism. Our Koran says the Israeli occupation of this land must end," said Marwan Ham-

mad, the bomber's 38-year-old brother.

Growing poverty is the other main source of discontent.

Unemployment skyrocketed after Israel closed its frontier to workers due to escalating attacks claimed by Islamic activists, including a Tel Aviv bus bombing last month that killed 22. None of the investment expected to transform the impoverished strip has materialised, although towers with apartments at more than \$100,000 are shooting up near the shore.

"We used to hear that it would be the new Hong Kong, but there has not been one single project. Even most of the new white paint ran off the walls with the first rain," said Gaza worker Nasser Mahmoud, 24.

The government seems mired in endless rounds of talks with Israel on spreading autonomy. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that talks could take months

because of the bloodshed.

Construction workers who enter Israel fume at the humiliations suffered at the Erez crossing. This week they were turned away because they lacked cholera vaccinations, a new requirement due to an outbreak of the disease, but one they learned of when they arrived for work at 3 a.m.

One worker said the guards sneered at him, "Why don't you go get a permit from Islamic Jihad?"

Palestinians say such exchanges only boost the credibility of the Islamic organisations as the only ones standing up to Israel, few expect the arrests will stop the attacks.

"We are heading towards a confrontation," said psychiatrist Sarraj. "If Yasser Arafat now is reluctant to go for widespread confrontation with them, he will eventually be forced to do it — if not by the Israelis, then by the feeling that he has to do it to keep himself in power."

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:25	Vienna (OS)
04:45	Khartoum (SD)
14:45	Munich (YB)
14:55	Paris (RJ)
21:00	Aden (DY)
06:20	Amsterdam (KL)
06:30	



## Sri Lanka's new government turns into 'family business'

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka set a world record Monday with a mother-and-daughter team for premier and head of state after the landslide victory of the ruling People's Alliance in last week's presidential polls.

Sirima Bandaranaike, 78, already in the history books as the world's first elected woman prime minister, was sworn in Monday for the same job, but with less powers, before her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The two women clasped hands and wished each other long life at the ceremony held at the official "Temple Trees" residence of the president.

The Bandaranaike dynasty now includes three prime ministers and president.

The new prime's husband, Solomon Bandaranaike, won in 1956 but was assassinated in 1959. His widow was elected prime the following year.

Like her mother, Mrs. Kumaratunga too became a political widow in February 1988 when her film-star-turned-politician husband Vijay was gunned down in front of her and their daughter Yasodara, 14, and son

Vimukti, 12.

Elected premier only last August, Mrs. Kumaratunga, 49, had an interview that she was uncomfortable with high office, but she took to it like a duck to water because ruling the country was "like a family business."

Mrs. Kumaratunga won a 1.99 million-vote majority at Wednesday's presidential poll and became the country's first woman president Saturday.

Despite the successes of the upper-caste family, the Bandaranaike have been plagued by the bitter rivalry between an Oxford-graduate son and a French-educated daughter.

Mrs. Kumaratunga first made her mark as the country's first chief minister in May 1993. After that, she rose like a meteor while her younger brother Anura Bandaranaike's career plunged.

Anura lost a leadership battle to her and defected to then ruling United National Party (UNP) in December last year. Their elder sister, Seneethra, maintains a low profile politically, but supports their mother.

Despite the difficulties of being in the opposition for 17 years till parliamentary polls

last August, "Mrs. B" — as the premier is affectionately known — managed to hold her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) together. The SLFP is the main constituent in the ruling alliance, which she also leads.

Asked what her message to Anura Bandaranaike was after her presidential victory, Mrs. Kumaratunga said: "Usually I don't speak to the deaf and the dumb."

She has resisted moves by the mother to bring back Anura to the SLFP fold. The flamboyant Anura, 45, had got used to partying and long overseas holidays during his more than 16 years as a front-bencher in the opposition.

For a brief six months, Anura was minister of higher education, reward from the UNP government for ditching the family last December. After defecting, Anura said his mother was "not very happy" but called her a "tough nut."

"We are a very civilised family unlike the Bhuttos," he said, referring to similar feuding in the family of Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto. He also justified his defection by saying his father had helped to form the UNP.

Despite the difficulties of

being in the opposition for 17 years till parliamentary polls

Solomon Bandaranaike set up the SLFP in 1951 after being sidelined by the UNP, and went on to win a sweeping victory at the 1956 elections. He was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in September 1959.

Suddenly, the responsibility of leading the SLFP fell on Mrs. Bandaranaike, a housewife and political novice cruelly dubbed the "dumb doll" by opponents.

However, she rode the crest of a sympathy wave and went on to be the world's first elected woman premier in 1965. She lost the 1965 election, but staged a comeback five years later and ruled the country till 1977.

Despite her lack of experience, the convent-educated Mrs. Bandaranaike played a key role in defusing tension between India and China after the brief border war between the two nations in 1962.

The Bandaranaike were close to the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty in India, which helped her sort out long-drawn disputes with their giant neighbour.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said

that India would be one of the first countries she

would visit as president.

## Fistfights in Pakistan parliament injure several MPs

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Several opposition MPs were injured Monday in the Pakistani parliament, where fist fights, scuffles and pandemonium broke out during a speech by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

Witnesses said at least five deputies were assaulted as they emerged from the hall following the 45-minute session, during which the opposition continuously booed and shouted slogans against the president.

One member of the National Assembly, Rao Qaiser, was taken out of the parliament building on a stretcher and had facial bruises.

The uproar made Mr. Leghari's address "inaudible. The opposition alleges the president plays a partisan role in favour of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The parliamentary rumpus was the worst since Ms. Bhutto assumed office about a year ago.

Scuffles broke out as a group of government MPs, led by chief whip Khurshid Shah, beat back about a dozen opposition members who charged towards the president.

Supporters of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and Ms. Bhutto also exchanged blows in a gallery after the session, which was attended by more than 250 members and watched by diplomats and chiefs of the Pakistani army, navy and air force.

Ms. Bhutto sat silently in her seat rolling prayer beads throughout the noisy proceedings. Mr. Sharif, in the adjacent row, also was silent.

Uniformed National

Assembly guards were called to protect the prime minister during the proceedings.

Mr. Sharif recently launched a campaign to oust Ms. Bhutto, organising protest marches, general strikes and rallies to mobilise the public.

"What happened at the assembly shows that the democratic system is under serious threat," said Ms. Bhutto's estranged younger brother, Murtaza Bhutto, a provincial MP.

He said both sides were to blame for turning the house into a "fish market and arena of hoodlums."

During the session, dozens of opposition MPs waved placards in the house, attacking Mr. Leghari and Ms. Bhutto and the prime minister's MP husband, Asif Ali Zardari.

The session followed the arrest Sunday of Mr. Sharif's father, Mian Mohammad Sharif, a leading industrialist who was charged with criminal misconduct, financial forgery and evasion of income taxes. Although Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar denied the arrest had political motives, the opposition called it "deliberate provocation" ahead of the president's speech.

The younger Sharif said his father's detention was "political victimisation." He said the government was underestimating the opposition and the arrest "will not deter me from completing my mission."

The parliament building was surrounded by armed police and the Islamabad administration banned public gatherings in the city.

In a departure from the



Injured opposition MP Rao Qaiser is carried out of the parliament on a stretcher by his colleagues Monday after scuffles and pandemonium broke out during a speech by President Farooq Ahmad Leghari. At least five deputies were assaulted as they emerged from the hall following the 45-minute session, during which the opposition continuously booed and shouted slogans against the president (AFP photo)

past, Mr. Leghari's address was not broadcast live, but an apparently edited recording was shown more than two hours later.

Mr. Leghari, elected to the presidency in November 1993 as a candidate of the ruling Pakistan People's Party

(PPP), called for an end of political polarisation.

Mr. Leghari also lauded the "bold and innovative" steps taken by Ms. Bhutto's government, saying "we can feel satisfied over substantial achievements during the first year" of the government.

The latest results from the national elections commission, released Sunday after 79 per cent of votes were counted, put Mr. Chissano well ahead of Mr. Dhlakama in the presidential poll.

They also gave FRELIMO a lead over RENAMO in parliamentary elections.

Mr. Chissano's ex-guerrilla forces to contest their forecast defeat in the historic elections, held on Oct. 27-29 under a peace accord ending more than 16 years of civil war.

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## Former Mozambique rebels 'preparing to occupy towns'

MAPUTO (Agencies) — Mozambique's former rebels are preparing to occupy the port city of Beira and the northern town of Nampula because they appear to be losing the first free elections, a government official charged Monday.

"It seems that demobilised soldiers of RENAMO (the Mozambique National Resistance) are returning to their bases, with arms, while armed groups have been spotted" around Nampula, the governor of Nampula

said.

RENAMO was also planning to occupy Beira, Mozambique's second city and the stronghold of former rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama, sources in the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) alleged.

But Mr. Dhlakama Monday rejected allegations that he was preparing to return to war and said they were lies fabricated by FRELIMO.

"I categorically deny the accusation. It's a disinforma-

tion campaign by the FRELIMO party," Mr. Dhlakama said in an interview with the national Radio Mocambique.

"I don't know if (President Joaquim Chissano) is behind this, but I think FRELIMO is afraid, because despite fraud in the elections, RENAMO has won a strong position in parliament," he added.

An alleged RENAMO document reprinted in the pro-FRELIMO Domingo newspaper Sunday described plans for reorganising Mr.

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Spent bullet casings littered the area which remained cordoned off late into the night as police searched for clues. The windscreens of a police car was shot out and walls riddled with bullets.

Witnesses described the gunman, who was not immediately identified, as a white man in his mid-30s. Police could not immediately explain what prompted the shooting.

The second wounded police officer, John Payne,

42, was in serious condition with a chest wound.

An ambulance that rushed to the scene during the shootout was sprayed with bullets and a woman paramedic was shot in the arm. She was treated and released from the hospital.

Another man was shot in the leg and was in fair condition.

If China did not make a full disclosure and the United States were to prove the deal, Washington would impose sanctions that would cost the Communist regime billions of dollars in trade, said the officials, who declined to be identified.

"We don't want to do that," said one.

The United States alleges

China supplies Pakistan with technology and parts for the

## Gunman killed, 4 wounded in U.S. shootout

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Police said they shot and killed a heavily-armed man wearing combat fatigues Sunday after a shootout on a street of apartments and restaurants close to downtown San Francisco.

Police at one stage said they believed that one of the wounded people could be an accomplice of the gunman. But late Sunday, they ruled out that theory, saying the wounded man was an innocent bystander and that the gunman acted alone.

Hundreds of bullets were fired during the shootout, police said. People living in nearby apartments dived for cover while people in the street fled in panic.

"It really sounded like a battlefield. It was a major gun battle out here and it was quite terrifying," witness Scott Evans told San Francisco's KCBS Radio.

Police say the shootout began after a bungled carjacking attempt. They said the gunman apparently tried to steal a luxury car driven by a woman, but the woman escaped unharmed and police were called.

The first officer re-

sponded and he was shot immediately. Another officer was shot on a rooftop," police spokesman Lt. Tom Del Torre said.

Dozens of police officers poured into the area, which was sealed off.

Volleys of bullets were fired as the gunman dodged between parked cars, witnesses said. After a 30-minute shootout, police said they shot and killed the gunman.

A police bomb squad expert said what may be a detonator and wires were found near the body of the dead suspect.

Officer James Guelff, 40, was shot in the head and was in critical condition at San Francisco General Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

When the police arrived, they were greeted by a hail of bullets.

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## Jordan Times

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## Decision off target

**THE GOVERNMENT'S** decision to slash considerably custom duties on cars and other imported consumer goods is understandable in part by the need to meet some basic conditions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in which Jordan is seeking membership and to prepare for the new climate of peace in the Middle East and the promise of more robust regional economies. GATT or the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as it will be known, calls for a 60 per cent ceiling on import duties on products that are not manufactured locally. In this strict sense alone, the government's decision does not seem to go far enough. New custom duties are effectively over 100 per cent on the smallest of cars, if sales and import taxes are added to the current applicable custom duties. This in turn suggests that the Kingdom has only partially met the pre-conditions of WTO or its predecessor GATT and that more custom deductions could be in the offing in the years ahead. This will certainly add to the confusion that has characterised the car market in particular.

Pressed in between are Jordanians who were caught off guard and who had bought their vehicles on the basis of persistent Ministry of Finance pledges that no custom deductions are being considered. All such buyers who chose to put their trust in government assurances suddenly found out that the values of their newly purchased cars have dropped by no less than 30 per cent, literally overnight. These bad investments call for remedies in one form or another. We cannot reward those who did not take the government's promises at face value and penalise those who did. There is a legal basis for seeking compensation by those who acted in good faith on the basis of Ministry of Finance policy that preceded the Saturday decision. Even a class action can be filed by all Jordanians, who suffered losses, against the government on account of the "false" information that was fed into the market prior to the recent policy reversal on custom duties.

Even more pressing is the need to articulate a more long-term coherent and forthright policy on duties that the market can understand and cope with. If Jordan's projected membership in the WTO would necessarily mean more slashing of custom duties by the end of 1995, then Jordanian consumers must be told here and now in order to avoid the cycle of inequities that have resulted from the recent cycle of contradictory governmental statements.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TAREQ MASARWEH said Monday, that Jordanians rejoice over the happy occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, remembering his relentless efforts for his country and the Arab Nation throughout the past years. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i, said that the Jordanian leadership accomplished semi-miracles for the Kingdom despite the external pressures and despite the tragic events of the past years, which ranged from confrontation with Israel, to the consequences of the Gulf war. Under King Hussein, the Kingdom witnessed progress at all levels and in every field and this progress is a source of pride for the Jordanian people who have the right to rejoice and wish their King long and happy life at the helm of the nation, said the writer. He said that the people of Jordan who faced hardships in the past have all the reason to rejoice now as their country is entering a peace era and is enjoying economic, social and political stability.

THE VISIT of King Juan Carlos to Jordan coincided with the country's celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and came to reaffirm the strong ties between Jordan and Spain, said a columnist in Al Dustour Monday. Saleh Qallab said the Spanish monarch's sharing the joy of the Jordanian people on this happy occasion is a show and a proof of the strong ties between the two nations, which have lasted for hundreds of years. Spain and Jordan are linked through historic ties in culture, the economy and other fields and the Spanish monarch's visit coincided with a moment when the Kingdom is enjoying the peace treaty, which Jordanians view as a new window to the outside world and a step preceding an era of prosperity and construction in an atmosphere of stability and security, said the writer. He said that Jordan takes pride in the Spanish king's visit and his sharing with the Jordanian people their joy over King Hussein's birthday. He expressed hope that the visit will open new avenues for greater measures of cooperation between the Spanish and the Jordanian peoples.

## The View from Fourth Circle

### Hamas, Islamism and the last two decades

By Rami G. Khouri

THE SUDDEN surge in the popular support for Hamas in Palestine has been perceived by many in the West and the Middle East as a threat to the successful implementation of the PLO-Israel peace process. In fact, the opposite is true; Hamas is surging because the peace process is floundering. The Hamas issue raises the larger question of the direction and real condition of Islamist politics in the Middle East, especially in view of the situations in Egypt and Algeria. Two decades have passed since the start of the modern Islamist revival in the mid-1970s, enough time to gauge their performance and to glean valuable clues about how best to deal with the important challenge they pose and the issues they raise.

Islamist politics is not a fringe movement of crazies, as it is portrayed in the West. It is the single most important manifestation of contemporary Arab political, social and economic discontent, and the leading expression of popular rebellion, reawakening and revival throughout the Middle East. Like Christianity and Judaism, its role and defining mission since its inception as a religion has been to provide comfort in times of distress, stability in times of change, justice in times of inequity, and hope in times of despair. Because of its predominance in developing, colonised lands throughout the South, Islam has also played an important role as an agent for national identity, liberation and dignity.

The roots of today's populist, politicised Islam lie deep in the many nationalist, anti-colonial and anti-Western struggles in the modern Middle East that relied on Islam as a rallying cry to seek freedom from foreign subjugation, to forge national entities from tribal alliances or to reform and revive their stagnant societies in the 19th century, from the Mahrts in Sudan and the Wahhabis in Saudi Arabia to Mohammad Ibn Al-Sa'udi in Libya and Abd Al-Qadir in Algeria, among many others.

Reformist Islamist movements in the 20th century were led by Jamal Al-Din Al-Afghani, Mohammad Abdu and Rashid Rida in Egypt, Alai Al-Fasi in Morocco, Abdul Aziz Al-Thalabi in Tunisia and Abdul Hamid Ibn Badis in Algeria.

In the mid-1970s, the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups were well-positioned once again to step into the role of protectors and saviours, and they also had a large new constituency — the burgeoning mass of uneducated, unskilled, displaced and often unemployed urban slum dwellers, along with the shrinking, increasingly worried and resentful middle class and educated professionals who were unsatisfied with the Westernisation of their societies.

Within a few years, the oil boom increased the fiscal, military and political power in the hands of the Arab state and the few people who controlled it; it accelerated the already significant social alienation that was a consequence of migration, urbanisation, and Arab cultures that had to import most of their needs; it exacerbated economic disparities and ultimately forced massive economic adjustment, having allowed a small number of Arabs to hoard immense, unearned wealth while subjecting the majority of Arabs to the slow, persistent ravages of inflation, unem-

ployment or poverty; and it heightened the glaring gap between the apparent fiscal and military power of the Arabs and the reality of Arab weakness and failure in the face of Israel and its Western patrons and backers.

The Islamist resurgence, including Hamas, can be traced directly, clearly and exclusively to the Arab people's need for a means to seek shelter from this set of underlying problems and from the inability of the Arab states to respond to them. As Israel and most Arab and Western states have tried to crush the Islamists by a combination of political denial and brute force, they have only strengthened and radicalised the Islamists.

Such government repression will only exacerbate the underlying economic regression and political atomacy that feed the growth of the Islamist movements — as Egypt and Algeria attest — while heightening the credibility and appeal of the Islamists as the most important opposition force, especially among the economically poor, the socially alienated and the politically marginalised. This should be kept in mind as we assess the Arafat-Hamas stand-off.

Repression has not only discredited relatively moderate mainstream Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Palestine, Amal in Lebanon, and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria; it has also helped spawn more intransigent and violent groups such as the Islamic Group in Egypt, Hamas in Palestine, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Armed Islamic Group in Algeria. Conversely, where Islamists are accepted as part of the political system and are allowed to organise and compete for power — in Jordan, Yemen, Kuwait and parts of Lebanon — they tend towards moderation, pluralism, democratic electoral competition, nonviolent struggle and a minority but credible role in the political power structure.

The experience of Islamists in the political systems of the region has been very mixed, and is important to grasp. Islamism has been an effective force for protest, challenge and solace, but is unable to date to translate its vision and promise into a coherent political programme that responds to people's practical needs, or to deliver the stable, sensible statehood that Arabs seek. It remains vague about the precise political, economic and social programmes it would institute, and has no real proven national successes. Its strength as a movement that seeks change, goodness and justice has not been matched by its success as an ideology of statehood or an incumbent regime.

The five most prominent examples of explicitly "Islamic" contemporary states — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Pakistan — all have positive assets and emotionally and politically satisfying attributes, but they are hardly a collective paradigm of sustainable economic development, national stability, personal freedoms, intellectual tolerance or political pluralism. In several countries, Islamists of different ideological bents have exercised local or national power by winning through the ballot box (Jordan in 1989, Algeria at the provincial and municipal level in 1990-1991, Kuwait in 1993 and Yemen in 1994), by seizing power in tandem with the military (Iran, Sudan), or

by virtue of their status as one of several ethnic-religious groups in a power-sharing system (Lebanon).

In virtually all of these cases, they have been unable to deliver on their promises of improving people's quality of life. Islamists remain more an expression of Arab problems than the means to their solution. This is perhaps a great shame; but it is also an empirical truth of the modern Middle East that we should not miss as we once again ponder the future of our region and the place of Islamists politics within it.

In all countries where Islamists have competed for power in an open, free and pluralistic political system they have made some gains, but then they have generated opposition to themselves and, in some cases, have lost public support. The clearest example of the latter is in Jordan, where the Islamists (Muslim Brotherhood and independent Islamists) won 40 per cent of the seats in the Lower House of Parliament in 1989, but won only around 22 per cent of the seats in 1993.

In Iran the Islamist regime's economic incompetence has led to rising foreign debt, foreign exchange shortages and high inflation, causing intense pressures on the government budget and on the purchasing power and living standards of ordinary families. Equally problematic is the regime's brutality, including at least 15,000 executions that have been carried out in the country since the 1979 revolution. The regime faces a serious challenge to its policies in the form of spontaneous demonstrations and riots throughout the country, along with unprecedented public calls for more personal and intellectual freedoms. Iran represents the first example of an Islamist political culture that is increasingly unsatisfactory to its own people and that is being held accountable and challenged from within.

The experience of political Islamists in the last two decades suggests that they will remain strong and appealing where they are at the stage of challenging regimes (such as in Algeria and Egypt), but they will prove less credible in cases where they are in power or where they compete for power in an open system (Iran, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Kuwait, among others).

Most of the underlying causes that have fed the Islamist revival — especially state political brutality, humiliation by Israel and the West, economic disparity and the stresses of brash social transformation and Westernisation — are worsening in the region, not improving; therefore Islam's political appeal will remain robust for many years, as we witness so clearly with Hamas in Palestine.

The most appropriate response to the Islamist resurgence by Israel, the West, or uneasy Arabs and Muslims is to tackle its causes rather than its symptoms — to identify and resolve the underlying political injustices, economic disparities, social pressures, and other causes that have fed the Islamist wave since the mid-1970s, rather than to try to crush it militarily or to keep it out of the political system. The choice in Palestine is between the Egyptian or the Jordanian models. The Egyptian model will lead to a violent, ugly war, and the Jordanian model will lead to more gradual, peaceful political evolution.

## Process of reconciliation must be understood in a social, psychological context

The writer, the widow of former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, delivered the address below to the roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace process," which ended in Amman Sunday.

IT IS a great honour to participate in the Roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process." Tonight when I speak I will borrow many words from my husband Olof Palme.

My husband Olof Palme died in April 1983 in Stockholm, of the situation in the Middle East:

"We are convinced that dialogue and conversation are urgent necessities and that a political solution is an ethical obligation." He drew attention to the Nordic Social Democratic tradition of contributing to the search for peace.

"Children are in many ways exposed to extreme strain, and suffer under the scourge of war. Palestinian children and young people belong to this category."

Let me say some words about my husband's persistent concern with strategies for peace. When he formed the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues in 1981, his ambition was to present a report to the international community — the United Nations.

The report was named "Common Security — A Programme for Disarmament." The guiding principle is captured in Olof's introduction:

"The doctrine of deterrence offers very fragile protection indeed against the horrors of nuclear war.

"It is therefore of paramount importance to replace the doctrine of mutual deterrence. Our alternative is common security. There can be no hope of victory in a nuclear war, the two sides would be united in suffering and destruction. They can survive only together. They must achieve security not against the adversary but together with him. Interna-

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The report was presented in June 1982 at the Second Special of the United Nations' General Assembly on Amman Sunday.

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# Features

By Rami G. Khouri  
decades

## Festivities on King's birthday

(Continued from page 1)  
jacketed in Al Adasich town near Karak.

The JD 2.185 million centre will house 150 persons aged between 12 and 40 years.

On the occasion, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of Arab and foreign countries.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent King Hussein greetings saying that Israel was celebrating the special day with the King.

"I believe you can look back on this past year as one of singular fulfillment," said the message.

"The attainment of peace between Jordan and Israel is a testimony to the success of your personal role which was second to none," it added.

"The people of Israel celebrate your birthday today alongside the people of Jordan and wish you many long years in which we will all reap

the rewards of true peace," Mr. Rabin wrote.

Jordan Television aired special programmes chronicling King Hussein's reign of 42 years and highlighting the peace treaty Jordan concluded with Israel on Oct. 26.

The King and the royal family spent his birthday at Aqaba. A private party was to be held there Monday evening with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain leading the guest list.

"May God protect you for our sake," a newspaper greeting said. Others included, "We stand firmly behind you" and "With you our happiness is renewed every year."

King Hussein has ordered an amnesty for 342 soldiers jailed for desertion, officials said.

They said the amnesty covered prisoners who have already served a certain part of their sentence.

By Ayman Al Safadi

FOR OVER a year now, the government has been promising to introduce a tax reform package that will address the many imbalances that may the country's tax system and hinder the growth of the economy. But promises are all that has come from the government.

The only changes that have been introduced to the system are those that serve the government's purposes, often at the expense of the citizens and to the detriment of the economy.

The last measure in the government's selective treatment of the tax system was Saturday's lowering of the customs levied on vehicles. The government has long

led to uncertainty which pushed the car market to a standstill. In the world of economics, uncertainty is a sure way to cripple the economy, and crippled was the car market for weeks, if not months.

It is true that the decision will benefit many citizens who will now be able to own their own cars. But it will also hurt thousands of Jordanians whose losses as a result of the decision will be in the millions of dinars. Every one who bought a car within the last several years will see the price of their cars going down significantly. Many people are still paying back loans they took to purchase the cars. Who, and what, will compensate them for their losses?

But obviously the lot of

this category of citizens was not on the minds of officials who made the decision, because had this been the case, they would have thought of means to minimize the negative impact the decision would have on the people.

The government's desire to comply with the demands of either the International Monetary Fund (IMF), or the U.S. government or the GATT treaty, should not be realized at the expense of people. After all, the objective of the economic restructuring programme is to improve the economy. That means making life easier for people, raising their living standards and easing the pressure forced on them by a confused taxing system, inflation and

low salaries among other factors. But above all, the government cannot hope to cover bureaucratic incompetence with absolutist decisions that trample on the rights of the individual taxpayer or treat citizens as if they were all merchants and traders.

The government has to take immediate to address the negative repercussions of its decision. It should not keep on introducing haphazard changes to the customs and taxation system. It either reforms the system as a whole or compensates the people who suffer from its selective moves. Neither the economy nor the people can afford to live with the government's unwillingness to take a global view when it tackles economic issues.

The legislature should also play its role and prevent the executive authorities from playing havoc with the fortunes of citizens. Its message to the government should be clear: introduce a complete tax reform package or do not expect the endorsement of any selective treatment of the tax system. We are fully aware of what happened when the Minister of Finance floated ideas to reform the income tax regime earlier this year. Injustice was done unto his package, simply because it was mobilized against him. But in this era of peace and reconstruction in Jordan, the government cannot allow populist policies to blind us in what we really ought to be doing: basic-

ly, reforming and modernizing the bureaucratic system, and widening the official outlook with due regard paid only to the long-term benefit of citizens and their country.

The government still has time to amend the decision, or follow up with another capable of addressing the imbalance that has been created. In that regard, it could grant tax breaks to people who are still making payments on cars they have purchased with phenomenal prices under the old customs regime. That, the government can, and should, do if it cares about protecting the life savings of many Jordanians. We have to assume that the government does care about that, or does it?

The writer is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

## Iraq sanctions unchanged

(Continued from page 1)  
disarmament official urged Iraq to provide more information on its weapons programmes, saying there were "significant gaps" in what the United Nations knew about them.

American Charles Duerler, deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), arrived in Iraq Monday for four days of talks on the biological weapons programme.

"There are significant gaps in what we know," Mr. Duerler told reporters. "I think that the substantiation which we require for the description of past [military] activities is lacking."

He said he would meet General Amer Rashed, head of the Iraqi Military Industrialisation, to discuss "problems in implementation of the monitoring system" for Iraqi weapons programmes.

The United Nations ordered the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — including its nuclear, chemical and biological programmes — after Iraq was ejected from Kuwait in February 1991.

Mr. Duerler said he could not predict when the full monitoring system would be put in place as "it depends upon the cooperation of the Iraqi government... the information it can provide and the systems it can offer."

His team includes UNSCOM operations chief James Moore and spokesman Tim Trevan.

A team of U.N. biological weapons experts headed by American Richard Sperzel begins a mission in Iraq on Tuesday.

UNSCOM's Swedish chief Rolf Ekeroth said in a report on Thursday that the Iraqi disarmament programme was progressing "surprisingly well."

But he reported "contradictions" between the information obtained by his

commission on military deliveries to Iraq and data provided by Baghdad.

His report came a month after the trial launch of a long-term monitoring system for Iraq's weapons programmes.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, speaking in an interview broadcast on Sunday, hinted that President Saddam might one day be accepted as a fully-fledged member of the international community.

Mr. Kozyrev, who spearheaded the successful Russian diplomatic drive to persuade Iraq to recognise Kuwait, now wants the sanctions against Baghdad to be gradually eased.

Asked by Russian independent television station NTV whether Washington might try to block the lifting of sanctions, Mr. Kozyrev replied:

"I am counting on the United States to be able to contain its emotions and recognise one thing — in international affairs, people do not act in the same way forever."

He said the classic example was Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, who in 1989 did not take part in a session of the United Nations General Assembly after Washington made it quite clear he was not wanted.

"Look, five years later, the same Arafat, wearing the same headcloth, is greeted in a very friendly manner by (U.S.) President Clinton, among others. And he wins the Nobel (Peace) Prize," said Mr. Kozyrev.

"(Another) example — many people in this country until recently were communists. And now they have become democrats."

Mr. Kozyrev last week demanded an "adequate" United Nations response to Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. Moscow sees an easing of sanctions as a natural step.

THE SALAAM restaurant on the beach near the harbour is reputed to serve the best fish in Gaza. Gaza fish market is next door and the fish served at the restaurant are always fresh. The Gaza fishing industry is reviving and new port is under construction. On the beach families gather under the shade of screens made of the frames of dry palm branches. Along the coastline new white apartment and office buildings have gone up. At the gate of President Yasser Arafat's headquarters there is a permanent gathering of groups of well-wishers and supplicants. The curfews are gone. Gaza is one step towards liberation from Israeli occupation — or is it?

Four months after the return of Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution and Head of the Palestine National Authority in Gaza and

Jericho is now firmly in place and under his control. But although just four months in office, the new Palestinian administration has already demonstrated an appetite for violence and violation of fundamental human rights. Rival Palestinian security organisations have engaged in shoot-outs and arson in the West Bank and are implicated in at least one assassination in Tulkarm. A Palestinian detainee, Farid Jarbu, suspected of collaboration with the Israeli occupation authorities, died after 10 days' detention and interrogation by Gaza's Palestinian police on July 6.

The Declaration of Principles of September 1993 and the Cairo Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area of May 1994 made it possible for Mr. Arafat to return to Palestine. With him PLO officials and Palestinian deportees have returned and Palestinian political prisoners will be progressively released. Like all of them, Mr. Arafat deserves a warm reception. But Abu Ammar is not only a deserving fighter for Palestine and the leader of Fatah who has returned from exile. He is also return-

ing as his excellency Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestine Revolution, and Head of the Palestine National Authority. A damaging situation is now established where Mr. Arafat, the head of the Palestine National Authority is accountable to Mr. Arafat the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestine Revolution, who is accountable to Mr. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine. The process of Palestinian democratisation in the interim period of the new Palestinian authority must begin with the de-coupling of these four offices.

The Declaration of Principles of September 1993 and the Cairo Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area of May 1994 made it possible for Mr. Arafat to return to Palestine. With him PLO officials and Palestinian deportees have returned and Palestinian political prisoners will be progressively released. Like all of them, Mr. Arafat deserves a warm reception. But Abu Ammar is not only a deserving fighter for Palestine and the leader of Fatah who has returned from exile. He is also return-

The curfews have been removed from Gaza's centres of population. Israel patrols are rarely if ever seen. Public order is maintained by armed Palestinian "green" and "blue" uniformed police. But anyone familiar with apartheid South Africa will immediately recognise the arrangement for what it is: the "autonomous" freedom granted by an apartheid government to a "bantustan" homeland.

Along the border with Israel a new electronic fence is being constructed around the Palestinian autonomous area. It is designed to isolate the areas of Palestinian self-rule from the Israeli settlements at Gush Katif, which occupies about one-third of the territory of the half. As of May 18, the autonomous area of Gaza has been declared by order of General Matan Vilnai, head of the Southern Command, to be a closed military zone. All holders of Israeli blue identity cards, namely all Israeli residents (including Jerusalem Palestinians), must obtain military permits from the Israeli authorities in advance of entrance into the self-rule areas as defined in the Cairo agreements of May.

The relevant Israeli military authority is the Regimental Commander of the Operations Division (AGAM), stationed in Nuriyari, Gush Katif. By example, last month a solidarity delegation headed by Member of Parliament Hashim Mahamid (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) was delayed for some four hours at the Erez checkpoint before it was allowed into Gaza.

Thus, a third of the Gaza Strip remains under Israeli settlement control. The settlers (and all holders of blue Israeli identity cards) are free to travel to the settlement district of the Gaza Strip without hindrance through designated latitudinal roads. But the access of organisations and individuals committed to the defence of human rights, the defence of Palestinian rights, the defence of Palestinian political prisoners and the support of former political prisoners after their release is now strictly controlled by the Israeli occupation authorities. As

mentioned above, as of May it is prohibited for any holder of an Israeli blue identity card to enter the areas of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip without a permit. To elaborate the point, the permit required is not a permit issued by the Palestine National Authority, but a permit from Israeli military occupation authorities, the regimental commander of the Operations Division in the Qatit settlement bloc.

Against the backdrop of this situation on the ground two questions beg immediate consideration: is the segregation of the Gaza Strip with a massive new electronic security fence a signpost for the future delineation of an international border between Israel and an independent state of Palestine? Are the Israeli military occupation restrictions on entrances of holders of Israeli identity cards into the Palestinian autonomous area of the Gaza Strip a harbinger of Palestinian independence?

In the view of this writer, the answer to these two questions must be negative.

Middle East International

## PNA pursues crackdown

(Continued from page 1)

the number of militants detained since the suicide bombing.

Mr. Arafat is under strong pressure from Israel to rein in the Islamic militants who oppose the Israel PLO autonomy accord.

The authority had rounded up activists from the militant Hamas group several times in response to Israeli pressure since Gaza came under self-rule in May. They were released within days.

But Mr. Abu Medeen said the smaller Islamic Jihad had "crossed a red line" when its members hosted Mr. Arafat out of the funeral 10 days ago of a Jihad activist killed in a bombing which all Palestinian factions blamed on Israel.

Islamic Jihad is a smaller group than Hamas which has concentrated much more on guerrilla activities. Its followers embrace a revolutionary style of Islam and are considered by many Gazans to be less disciplined than Hamas.

Ties between the Palestinian authority and Hamas have actually improved in the past two weeks, despite a spate of attacks by the group which put pressure on Arafat.

PLO officials and Jihad supporters said they expected the detentions to last longer, and even spoke of Jihad members being brought to trial for offences against public order.

Officials said scenes of armed Jihad activists burning flags "Iranian-style" in the streets of Gaza last week had angered Palestinian leaders.

"It appears Islamic Jihad is posing a challenge to law and order," Gen. Yousef told Reuters.

Thus, instead of pressing for holding elections and Israeli withdrawal, the PNA was still having to push for the implementation of the early empowerment agreement partly to prove to the Palestinians that the peace process was working and partly to improve living conditions in the West Bank.

But even as the transfer takes effect, the whole process of early empowerment is so far just reinforcing Palestinian suspicion that all the agreements signed with Israel are transforming the PNA into a reactionary body entrusted with limited powers to assume part of the responsibilities of the Israeli occupation authorities. According to Palestinian writer Naseer Al Arouf, early empowerment transferred the burden but not the authority.

The implementation of

## Somalis appeal to U.N.

(Continued from page 12)

FAO vows to remain

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has vowed to pursue its work in Somalia as U.N. troops and other relief agencies pull out.

Volunteers working for the international agency Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres — (PSF — Pharmacists Without Borders) announced Sunday that they were withdrawing.

The PSF decision and the "we'll stay" declaration by FAO Somaliland Director Talib Ali came as the Somalia Aid Coordination Body prepared to meet in Geneva on Wednesday to examine the role and future operations of U.N. agencies and other relief organisations here.

PSF said its decision to pull out was a result of local employees demanding payment "above and beyond what is due them in salaries" resulting in an "insecure situation making it impossible to continue working."



SETTLING DISPUTE: Opposition deputies and activists beat a ruling party supporter outside the parliament building in Pakistani capital. The beating followed pandemonium in parliament where several opposition deputies

were injured in fist fights and scuffles during a speech of President Farooq Ahmad Leghari. The opposition alleges the president

plays a partisan role in favour of Prime Minister Bhutto (AFP photo)

## Christopher trip on hold

(Continued from page 1)

we'll have an unexpected breakthrough I mean, what is the sense of stopping the negotiations?"

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi has said Lebanon and Syria could resume direct peace talks with Israel after Mr. Christopher's next trip to the region.

But Mr. Hrawi also warned in a newspaper interview published Monday to mark the end of his fifth year in office that a peace treaty with the Jewish state was out of the question until Israel withdrew from South Lebanon.

"We are like (doubting) Thomas: we won't believe it until we see it. We will wait for Christopher and depending on what he brings, we will discuss with Damascus if we return, as part of one team or two teams," he told Al Safir.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharqi said earlier this month that Damascus could return to the negotiating table in Washington after Mr. Christopher's visit.

Lebanon has linked its fate to Syria, which deploys around 30,000 troops in the country, and Mr. Hrawi consulted with President Assad last week in Damascus.

"I told President Assad: 'Here is my hand, take it and together we will form an iron chain which will not be broken,' he said.

He said Damascus and Beirut together wanted the Israelis to withdraw both from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

Turning to the presence of some 350,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Mr. Hrawi stressed that peace would not come at the expense of his country.

"If a decision is taken to solve the problem of the Palestinian refugees at the expenses of Lebanon we will then ask the Palestinians to leave Lebanon and that other Arab countries assume their responsibilities," he said.

"Let Yasser Arafat give them a nationality and after that they can leave," said Mr. Hrawi.

Jane's lists Israeli facilities

(Continued from page 1)

posed of limestone and ridged with caves."

A Jericho II missile was fired from the Zekharya base during the Gulf war, said Jane's.

"Satellite imagery also provides some evidence concerning the number of nuclear weapons Israel might have," said Jane's. "For instance, the images of the missile base (at Kefar Zekharya) show that there





## Orthodoxi, Jazireh battle for 2nd place; Watani, Homemtmen, Hussein lose

By Aleen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former champions Al Orthodoxi play the second of their matches in the First Division Basketball Championship Tuesday when they meet Al Jazireh in the most crucial match that will provide a clear indicator of this year's second placed team.

Al Orthodoxi played their first match of the competition Sunday, defeating

Homentmen 116-36, the first half ending 67-24.

For the first time in the Kingdom's basketball competition, another team has entered the race for the top two places usually occupied by Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi.

While Al Ahli seem set to retain their third consecutive title, Al Jazireh have a valid chance to clinch the runner up spot this season taking advantage of the transitional phase Al Orthodoxi has been passing through since the retirement of many older players especially Murad Barakat, who is now the head coach.

The former champions who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the eighties before losing the crown to all-time rivals Al Ahli in 1990, last won the title in 1991, however they enter this year's competition with the younger lineup of players who might face the prospect of losing their second place ranking.

In other matches this week, Al Jazireh put an end to Al Watani's ambitions of an advanced position when

they scored a 90-72 win, the first half ending 45-32.

Al Jalil seem set to stay in fourth place after losing to Al Jazireh 73-69. However their standing will become clearer after they play Al Hussein and Al Orthodoxi in upcoming matches.

Meanwhile, Al Hussein who had finished sixth last season, will have to win their next two matches against Homemtmen and Al Watani, in order to avoid relegation.

Al Hussein put up a big effort before losing 94-76 to Al Jazireh in their latest match.

Although Al Jazireh managed to end the first half 41-40, Al Hussein's players gave their opponents a hard time and took the lead 45-41 before both teams tied at 50-50 and 64-64.

However, Al Jazireh's all round better preparation paid off as they took the lead and expanded the gap from 81-72 to win the match 94-76.

Al Ahli and Al Jazireh now top the standings with 6 points each with an unbeaten streak. However, Al Ahli have the best scoring



Orthodoxi's Hila Barakat record after crushing all opponents by scoring over the 100 point mark and are in first place on score difference.

Al Jalil, one of two teams from Irbid, moved up to third place for now following two wins over Homemtmen and Al Watani and a defeat to Al Jazireh.

Al Watani have begun to drop in the standings after three defeats and only one win, while Al Orthodoxi are in sixth place as they have only played one match so far and are tied with 2 points with Al Hussein who are now seventh.

### STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Ahli	3	3	-	384	147	6
Jazireh	3	3	-	258	213	6
Jalil	3	2	1	255	205	5
Watani	4	1	3	281	360	5
Homemtmen	4	-	4	171	421	4
Orthodoxi	1	1	-	116	36	2
Hussein	2	-	2	130	213	2

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## Snowboard's Olympic campaign will spark avalanche

KARUIZAWA, Japan (AP) — A drive to make snowboarding an Olympic sport is further weighing down organisers of the 1998 Winter Games already faced with financial troubles and corruption allegations.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has given the Nagano Olympic Organising Committee (NOOC) a year to decide whether to adding the trendy ski-resort sport to the Olympic programme.

The NOOC is worried because the powerful IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch is seen as the man pushing the snowboard case.

Nagano's problems started in August when Samaranch suddenly urged the Japanese resort to put snowboard on the Games bill.

The Spaniard responsible for making the Olympics a huge commercial success, senses snowboard's potential as television package, IOC sources say.

Snowboard's growing popularity with the affluent youth market in Europe and North America has made it a growth industry with annual equipment sales of several billion dollars.

An immediate alert was sounded with fears that an avalanche of debt will bury Nagano, as it has many other Olympic hosts.

The programme for the last Olympics of the century has been fixed at 64 events in seven sports — with an estimated 3,000 competitors and officials.

Inflation has already forced the NOOC to push up the operating budget of \$6 billion yen (\$760 million). At the same time sponsors have been frightened off because of Japan's slow recovery from recession.

The mountain city of 350,000, famous for its 1,300-year-old Buddhist temple, still has to build 12 of the 20 Olympic venues.

Construction costs have rocketed from an initial 140 billion yen, half to be borne by central government and half by the local administration.

The return of the towering, acrobatic German and long-haired, rock-loving American is timely for a sport worried that it is losing fans because

## English game loses sheen in November nightmare

LONDON (R) — Relegation will come to four clubs in the English Premier League during the long, warm days of the season's end — but the dark fear of the drop has already struck hard on the cold nights of November.

In a flurry of action, three high-profile managers have been sacked and another has quit as one of the brightest starts to an English season in years loses its gloss.

Ossie Ardiles was the first to go, sacked by Tottenham Hotspur. Mike Walker at Everton and Ron Atkinson at Aston Villa followed with Gerry Francis resigning at Queen's Park Rangers.

Yet in August and September, the talk of excited fans, as the World Cup spirit of adventure lived on, was of such as Juergen Klinsmann, Ilie Dumitrescu, Eric Cantona and Manchester United.

Aston Villa had also sunk dangerously close to the bottom under Atkinson when chairman Doug Ellis decided enough was enough.

QPR were apparently unhappy with Francis, offering former star Rodney Marsh the job of chief executive without first consulting him.

Francis resigned immediately in disgust, it was rejected then eventually accepted at a time when his side, after some poor results, looked to be on the upgrade.

Now he could step into the vacancy at Spurs.

Former Arsenal, Inter Milan and Ireland star Liam Brady, who manages Second

Division Brighton after getting the sack at Glasgow Celtic, said: "It's becoming like Italy, especially the media interest, with even the quality broadsheets getting involved."

Brady added: "If a chairman keeps chopping and changing he might obtain success, but if you look at the successful clubs, most have had stability."

Manchester United, Arsenal and Leeds United, who between them have won the league title five times in the last six years, have the three longest-serving managers in the Premier League in Alex Ferguson, George Graham and Howard Wilkinson.

They are the only managers in the top flight appointed before 1991.

Fewer chairman or club

boards seem prepared in the modern game to give a manager the job of day to build a side.

They want instant results and fear seems to have set in this season in particular, with the Premier League being cut from 22 to 20 teams for next season.

Only one thing could calm their nerves, serious talk of a Second Division to the Premier League with a breakaway by sides in the current football league's First Division.

## Becker, Agassi revivals add spice to Frankfurt finale

FRANKFURT (R) — The revivals of Boris Becker and Andre Agassi, two of the biggest characters in tennis, have added extra spice to the year-ending ATP World Championship starting on Tuesday.

Becker and Agassi both started the year down the rankings but have bounced back with some superb form in recent months and now seem capable of challenging for the number one berth held by American Pete Sampras.

Construction costs have rocketed from an initial 140 billion yen, half to be borne by central government and half by the local administration.

The 24-year-old American has been made to work hard at his consistency by the hardened professional Brad Gilbert, who has harnessed Agassi's talent and tamed his taste for junk food. The U.S. Open champion looks lean and fit.

Becker started the year in 24th position and with his wrist in plaster. But victory in the U.S. Open and a defeat of Sampras on his way to the prestigious Paris Open title earlier this month boosted Agassi to second place in the rankings.

The 24-year-old American has been made to work hard at his consistency by the hardened professional Brad Gilbert, who has harnessed Agassi's talent and tamed his taste for junk food. The U.S. Open champion looks lean and fit.

Helped by Agassi's first

coach Nick Bollettieri, Becker, who turns 27 later this month, has rediscovered the determination which used to

make him a dominant force on fast surfaces. He proved his form on the indoor courts by winning last month's Stockholm Open.

"He recognises that he has a mission," Bollettieri said. "He can still hit shots that nobody believes he can possibly reach, he is out there to prove something to himself. When he goes into the locker-room he is the proud Boris Becker again. His opponents feel that."

The Frankfurt festivale could see some fascinating clashes on the carpeted indoor court as the top eight players in the world come together in a tournament which used to be known as the Masters and took place in New York.

The eight players play round-robin matches in two groups with the top two in each group advancing to the semifinals.

ATP men's ranking

- Pete Sampras (USA)
- Andre Agassi (USA)
- Sergi Bruguera (Spain)
- Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)
- Boris Becker (Germany)
- Michael Chang (USA)
- Alberto Berasategui (Spain)
- Stefan Edberg (Sweden)
- Michael Stich (Germany)
- Todd Martin (USA)
- Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)
- Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa)
- Jim Courier (USA)
- Marc Rosset (Switz)
- Andrey Medvedev (Ukraine)

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## 49ers upset Dallas Cowboys

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco, prevented from reaching the last two Super Bowls by eventual champions Dallas, finally got the better of the Cowboys Sunday.

Steve Young connected with Jerry Rice for a 57-yard touchdown pass that broke a tie in the third quarter. But it was the 49er defense that made the difference in the 21-14 victory.

San Francisco veteran Merton Hanks intercepted two Troy Aikman passes and new defensive signing Deion Sanders picked off

In addition, former Cowboys defenceman Key Norton, Rickey Jackson and Gary Plummer combined to hold Dallas running back Emmitt Smith to just 78 yards as San Francisco won their fifth straight game to take their record to 8-2, tied with Dallas at the top of the National Conference.

If they remain tied at the end of the season, the victory will give the 49ers the home advantage in the play-offs, but Hanks said it was too soon to think about the post-season.

On the other side of the country, New England Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe snapped out of a slump in dramatic fashion, breaking the National Football League record for attempted passes with 70. The previous record was 68, set by George Bland in 1964.

Bledsoe also completed a record number, 45, as the Patriots beat the Minnesota Vikings in overtime 26-20.

The two teams combined for a record for passing attempts, 112, and their combined total of completions, 71, also improved on the old record.

The Cincinnati Bengals, who lost their first

eight games of the season, won their second in a row, a 34-31 victory over Houston.

Bengals quarterback Jeff Blake threw three touchdown passes then injured his ankle. After Houston took a 31-24 lead he hopped off the X-ray table and led a comeback.

Overall, the day's action was even more bruising than usual.

Cincinnati's Steve Broussard and Denver's Derek Russell suffered neck injuries and were hospitalized.

Broussard complained of numbness in his arms and legs, but was improving Sunday night.

Russell was hurt making a tackle in the 17-10 victory over Seattle. Denver coach Wade Phillips said Russell's X-rays were encouraging.

In other games, New Orleans beat Atlanta 33-32, thanks to Morten Andersen's sixth game-winning field goal.

San Diego took their record to 8-2, level with Cleveland atop the American Conference, with a 14-13 victory over Kansas City. Cleveland broke Philadelphia's seven-game home winning streak for attempted passes with 70. The previous record was 68, set by George Bland in 1964.

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passing attempts, 112, and their combined

total of completions, 71, also improved on the old record.

The Cincinnati Bengals, who lost their first

## Denmark face Spain in Group 2 qualifier

LONDON (R) — Champions Denmark will be hoping to gain revenge after four crushing defeats by Spain in major matches in the last decade when they meet in Seville in their European Championship Group Two qualifier Wednesday.

The jinx began in 1984 when Spain beat Denmark on penalties in the European Championship semifinals in France.

Since then Spain have won in the second round of the 1986 World Cup finals, the opening round of the 1988 European Championship finals and again in their final World Cup qualifier exactly a year ago this week.

That defeat cost Denmark a place in the finals in the United States this year.

Now the two clash again with Spain leading the group with six points from two matches and the Danes second on four.

Denmark include one newcomer in their squad — Ronnie Ekelund, who has made a

superb start to his English League career at Southampton.

Another British-based player, striker Brian Laudrup of Glasgow Rangers, should be fit after recovering from a groin injury.

Laudrup summed up the feeling among the Danes when he said on Monday:

"The Spaniards have a psychological advantage over us after their many victories, but we've got our self-confidence back after beating Belgium in our last qualifier."

Spain trained behind closed doors at the weekend, but word is that coach Javier Clemente's main preoccupation is how to contain the menace of playmaker Michael Laudrup, currently the inspiration of Real Madrid in the Spanish League.

The Spain-Denmark match is one of three in which Group leaders and second-placed teams meet each

other.

In Group Four, leaders Croatia meet second-placed Italy in Palermo with Roberto Baggio returning to the national team for the first time since his penalty miss condemned the Italians to defeat in the World Cup final.

The Netherlands have been hit by injuries before their top-of-the-table match against Group Five leaders the Czech Republic.

Internazionale striker Dennis Bergkamp and Ajax winger Marc Overmars are out and Ajax striker Patrick Kluivert is expected to replace Bergkamp and make his international debut.

France desperately need a win in Poland to keep alive any realistic hopes of qualifying for the finals due to be held in England in two years time. France are fourth in group one-behind Romania, Israel and Poland after two 0-0 draws.

The court here is kind of hit and miss, a bit like grass-court tennis," said Sampras. "I don't mind playing on it but something slower is much more fair," it's something on an equalizer."

The first set was a close affair with games going to serve until the tiebreak. Both

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH BRECH

OUT FOR THE COUNT

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
K J 5 2  
Q 7 3  
2 A 4  
\* K Q 9 3

WEST  
5 7 3  
\* A 10 6  
Q 8 7 6 3  
\* J 10 8

EAST  
9 8 7 4  
\* Q 10 6 4  
\* Q 9 2  
\* K 10 9 5  
\* 4

The bidding:  
North East South West

1 ♦ 1 ♠ 1 ♣ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♡

Alchemists for centuries searched for ways to turn common metals into gold. These bridge counterparts have long sought an infallible method for locating a missing queen. Neither is likely to succeed, although bridge players have the better chance of finding her.

North's hand was borderline for an invitational jump raise to three spades and the good four-card support decided the issue. It did get North-South a good game quickly.

West led the ace of hearts and continued with the ten, overtaken by East's jack. A trump was returned. With a sure loser in the ace of clubs, declarer's problem was readily apparent—to locate the queen of diamonds, so it could be successfully finessed. The fly in the ointment was the finesse could be taken against either defender.

Even so, declarer made short shrift of the hand. The trump return was won with the jack and a second round was drawn, ending in the closed hand. Next came a club to the queen while declarer led the ace of clubs. When West cashed with the king, South discarded a diamond.

Two club ruffs sandwiched around a heart ruff provided declarer with all the information needed. East had started with two spades, five hearts (from the overall and West's play to the first two tricks), five clubs (West had shown out on the fourth club) and three diamonds, which could hold out one diamond. So declarer cashed the king of diamonds and, when no queen appeared, confidently finessed the jack to land the game.

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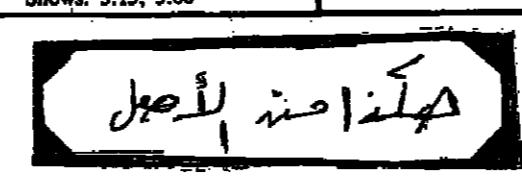
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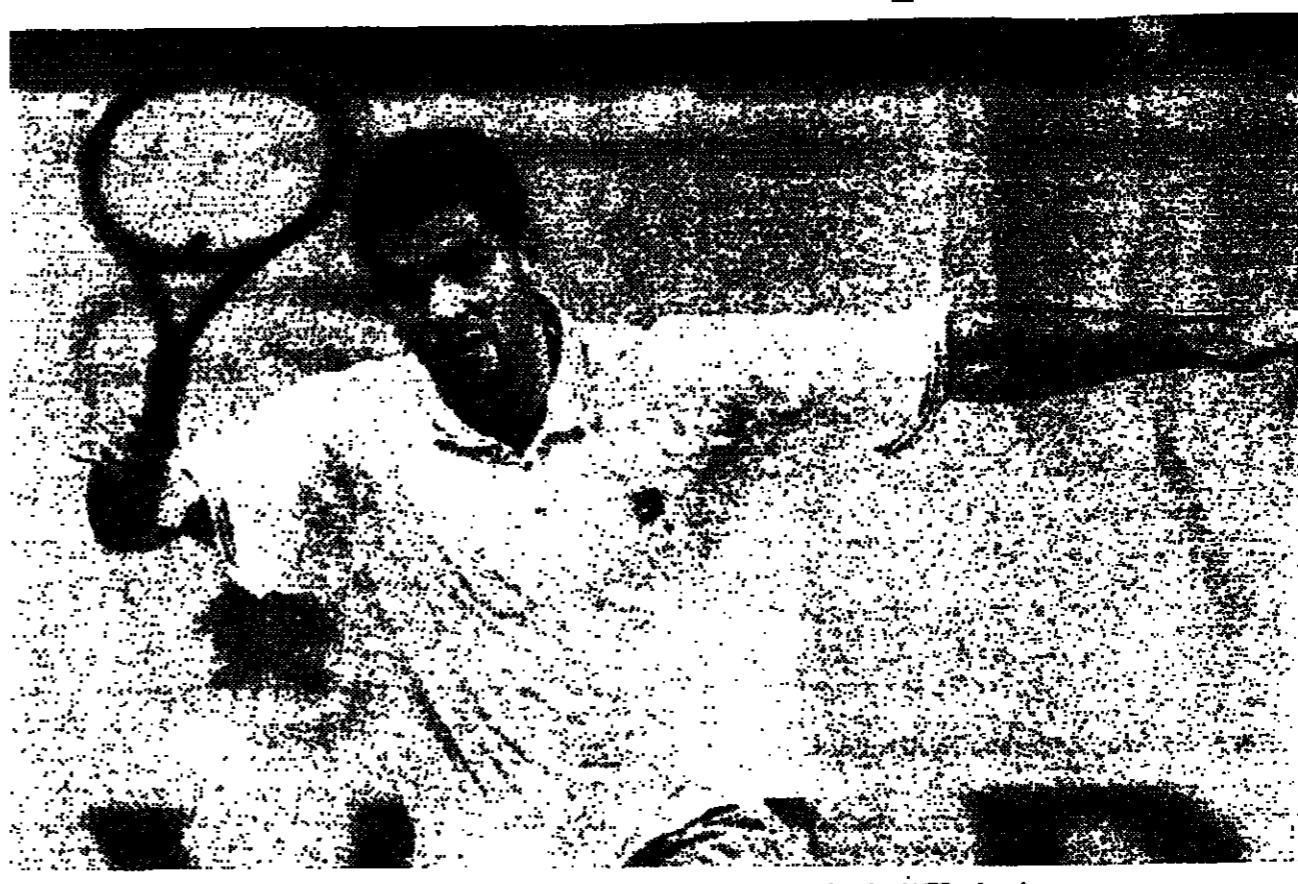
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JORDAN TIMES



World No. 1 Pete Sampras hits a forehand during a match at the EC championship (AFP photo)

players each saved one breakpoint, relying heavily on their service prowess.

Games also went to serve in the second set until Sampras broke the deadlock in the seventh.

Larsson, now ranked 22th in the ATP Tour standings, will break into the top 20 for the first time following his showing in Antwerp, ATP officials said.

"It feels good to be in the winner's circle again," said Sampras, adding: "It's been such a frustrating summer... I just have to put that behind me and finish off the year as strong as I can and winning here just gives me confidence going into Frankfurt."

He felt a slower court would make the game more attractive for the Antwerp crowd.

France desperately need a win in Poland to keep alive any realistic hopes of qualifying for the finals due to be held in England in two years time. France are fourth in group one-behind Romania, Israel and Poland after two 0-0 draws.

"The court here is kind of hit and miss, a bit like grass-court tennis," said Sampras. "I don't mind playing on it but something slower is much more fair," it's something on an equalizer."

The first set was a close affair with games going to serve until the tiebreak. Both

set and broke Pierce's serve with a forehand to win the tournament.

"She pushed me," Huber said. "She was always there, and she never gave up. I just tried to play my game, and it worked out."

Huber, who earned \$150,000, has won two tournaments and is ranked 13th in the world despite not having a coach since September. She also beat Pierce in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Germany last month.

Huber had the most difficult route to the final. She had three-set wins over Jen-

nifer Capriati and Lisa Raymond, beat Kimberly Po in two sets and Gabriela Sabatini in three sets before facing the second-seeded Pierce.

Pierce, ranked fifth, earned \$67,500 for second place. She is winless in five finals this year, and has not beaten Huber in three career matches.

Pierce hammered a 97 mph (155 kmph) ace and won three straight games to make it 5-5 in the third set. She fought off three match points earlier in the set before Huber put her away.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Israel, PLO raise 400 foreign observers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have asked Australia, Finland, Norway, Turkey and two European states to send a total of 400 observers to Gaza to oversee autonomy, a spokesman here said Monday. The request was made in writing by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath in Cairo on Oct. 23, a foreign ministry spokesman said. The text was sent to the foreign ministers of the four countries and the European Union requesting it name two more countries. No date was set for the deployment of the observers who would report back on implementation of the declaration of principles for autonomy, said the spokesman.

## Israel allows more people into Hebron shrine

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel will increase from 300 to 450 the number of both Muslims and Jews allowed to pray at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron at any time, an army spokesman said Monday. New security measures to keep members of the two religions apart had proved successful during a trial reopening of the site last week following the February slaughter of more than 30 Muslims by a Jewish settler. Troops would allow 450 Jews and 450 Muslims into the compound from Tuesday. "The army will continue to re-evaluate the position," the spokesman said. Hundreds of Palestinians prayed in the street on Friday when the army enforced the 300 limit. Only about 450 settlers live in Hebron surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

## Convict denies Iraq link with Bush plot

KUWAIT (AFP) — An Iraqi sentenced to death here for an alleged plot to murder former U.S. President George Bush said Monday the Iraqi intelligence service was not involved in the assassination bid. Wali Abdin Hadi Al Ghazali, 37, was given the death penalty at the end of a trial in June by the state security court. "The Iraqi intelligence services have nothing to do with my decision to assassinate George Bush" during a visit to Kuwait in April 1993, Mr. Ghazali said before an appeal hearing on the case. "I am an Iraqi citizen who came to assassinate an American citizen who destroyed my country and killed by parents," he added. The appeal court decided to postpone hearings until Dec. 19 so that defence lawyers could present their case. On Oct. 17 Mr. Ghazali said 16 members of his family were killed in a U.S. airstrike during the January-February 1991 Gulf war fought by a U.S.-led coalition to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

## Atlantis ends 11-day mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (AFP) — The space shuttle Atlantis landed in California, ending its 11-day mission to measure the ozone layer. The shuttle, which touched down at 7:34 a.m. local time (1534 GMT), was diverted from the landing strip at Cape Canaveral, Florida where tropical storm Gordon was sending up gusty winds. "Welcome home. It's a great way to end '94. Beautiful mission," mission control told the six astronauts who crewed the final shuttle flight for the year. Atlantis collected data from monitors and a \$35 million German satellite to study deterioration of the Earth's protective ozone layer.

## Sudanese singer's murder raises fears

KHARTOUM (R) — The murder of a popular singer in Khartoum, where Muslim fundamentalists massacred 16 worshippers at a mosque earlier this year, has raised fears that Islamic militants might have resumed operations. Khalid Osman died after a young man walked into the office of the singer's union in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city, and stabbed him. Two other prominent artists were wounded. Initial reports of the killing suggested the murderer was insane but a Sudanese newspaper reported that the attacker, Wedatallah Suleiman, belonged to the Islamic Sufi group. Major-General Izzeddine Gondour, commander of the police force in Khartoum state, denied that Suleiman belonged to a religious group. "The man is an ordinary uneducated person who does not belong to any religious or political group," Gen. Gondour said on state television on Sunday. He said doctors were assessing the attacker's mental state and he assured artists they were not targeted by any group.

## Bank officials held in Sudan currency case

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese police have arrested several bank officials for violating regulations governing free foreign currency accounts, Sudan's state-owned Al Ingaz Al Watani (national salvation) newspaper said on Monday. It said bank officials in both the private and public sectors had engaged in illegal activities including opening fake currency accounts and buying hard currency without supporting documents. The officials would face trial after investigations were completed, the newspaper said. People convicted of illegal currency dealings face a maximum sentence of three years in jail.

## Lebanon seizes \$5 million worth of cocaine

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police and Syrian intelligence agents seized 100 kilograms of cocaine at Beirut port on Monday, police said. The drugs were found in boxes in a container of blue jeans that arrived from Colombia. Brigadier Selim Sleem, head of the police anti-drug squad, told reporters the cocaine worth about \$5 million was shipped to Lebanon for processing. One man was arrested, he said. The Beirut government, with Syria's help, began a campaign two years ago against the cultivation and trafficking of drugs. It has eliminated drug crops grown in the eastern Bekaa Valley during the 1975-90 civil war, but many small processing factories are still believed to exist in the area.

## Greenpeace flagship to visit Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Rainbow Warrior, flagship of the environmental group Greenpeace, arrives here Tuesday on its first ever trip to Lebanon with a team of 20 experts on board for talks on ways to protect the Mediterranean Sea. The team will be headed by Mario Domato, coordinator of a project for the Mediterranean, and will meet with representatives of Lebanon's non-governmental groups, Shadi Hamade of the Lebanese environmental group Green Line told AFP. The Rainbow Warrior, which is on a Mediterranean tour, will berth for three days at Beirut port. "The main objective of Greenpeace is to outline a plan of action for the Mediterranean and to cooperate with the non-governmental groups," Mr. Hamade said.

## Reconstruction begins of inferno town

ASUIT, Egypt (AFP) — The first stone has been laid to rebuild the fire disaster town of Dronka in southern Egypt, officials said Monday. Work started Sunday on a new neighbourhood close to the one destroyed on November 2 by a sea of flames which spilled through the town from an oil depot fire, killing 529 people. Nearly 500 houses will be built over four to six months for 5,000 people left homeless by the disaster, the officials said. Floods and fire caused by the storm a fortnight ago killed a total of 611 people in Egypt, and left 100,000 homeless, according to police and hospitals. A special advisor to the U.N. Centre for Human Settlement on Monday started assessing the damage caused by the flood, the U.N. information centre in Cairo said in a statement.



KING'S BIRTHDAY: Students march through an Amman street on Monday waving national flags and holding pictures of His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of His

Majesty's 59th birthday (see page one) (Photo by Yousef Alkar)

## Farhat killer gets reduced jail term

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti who shot dead a Lebanese man and his son in a notorious Gulf war-era murder won a reduced term of 15 years on Monday when the top appeal court confirmed a lower court's ruling overturning his five sentence.

Defense lawyer Khaled Al Nguhami told reporters after the court of cassation hearing he would seek the release of murderer Jaber Al Ameeri on the grounds both that he was ill and that his post-war pursuit of alleged Iraqi collaborators was "heroic."

A criminal court jailed Ameeri for life in 1993 for killing Israeli Farhat and his son Osama in 1991 and for trying to kill his daughter Naimat. Ameeri was acquitted of raping Ms. Naimat. An appeal court later reduced his term to 15 years, arguing post-war circumstances, when the government remained in exile, were "ambiguous and dark" and cited Ms. Ameeri's alleged belief that he had "a national duty" to attack alleged collaborators.

Ameeri burst into the Farhat's home on March 2, 1991, a few days after the emir's Gulf war liberation, saying he would kill all family members because he believed they had sheltered Iraqi troops during the occupation. He tied up and shot dead the two men, allegedly twice raped Naimat and sprayed shots at her from an automatic rifle as he walked out of the house.

Naimat Farhat sustained severe head wounds from the bullets and is partly paralysed. She now uses a wheelchair.

Ameeri was an interior ministry official who in the post-war period assumed the role of a policeman responsible for security in his district. Lawyer Mohammad Al Enzi, representing Naimat Farhat, who now lives in the United States, told reporters he would sue Kuwaiti authorities for compensation.

"We will not hesitate in claiming from any party, official or non-official," he said. Ameeri sustained a spine injury in a car accident days after the killings that had left him partly paralysed.

"When the percentage of handicap is high, which is 55 per cent in Jaber's case, the interior ministry underestimates its responsibility to law to free him for health reasons," lawyer Nguhami said.

He added an additional reason for Ameeri's early release was that the state should recognise that the killing had occurred during what he called Ameeri's heroic pursuit of collaborators.

The Farhat family, which had lived in Kuwait for 30 years, denies it collaborated with the Iraqis.

The reason for the committing of the crime was the pursuit of collaborators after the invasion, and what we take from this ruling is that Jaber was in effect in the service of the state of Kuwait.

"Consequently this requires the state, upon the authority of the interior minister, to release him for his heroic acts," lawyer Nguhami told the reporters. He added, however, that he recognised that during the period after the war "there was no state, as we normally understand that term, having authority or control."

## Israel okays expansion of a W. Bank settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's housing ministry has given the green light for the building of 1,050 housing units in the West Bank settlement of Betar, officials said Monday.

Construction is already underway and 250 units have been sold in the last two weeks at the site south of Jerusalem, said the officials who refused to be named.

About two million Palestinians live in Gaza and the West Bank as well as some 160,000 in East Jerusalem. Israeli Television reported Sunday 11 out of 17 Israeli ministers support the evacuation of small isolated Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank when the Israeli army redeployes in the region.

Seven Labour ministers and the four belonging to the left-wing Meretz party would favour such an evacuation, according to a survey carried out by Israel's Channel Two.

Supporters included Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzuri, usually considered to be hawkish, and Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was among those opposing such a move.

Under the accord signed with the Palestinians, Jewish settlements are to remain during the five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

The survey did not include Mr. Rabin.

The army is due to rede-

ploy away from Palestinian towns in the West Bank before elections to an autonomy council are held, but no date has been set.

Settler organisations say colonisation has continued since this year and more than 130,000 Jews now live in the occupied territories.

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ploy away from Palestinian towns in the West Bank before elections to an autonomy council are held, but no date has been set.

In Cairo, an international Muslim organisation warned Monday that there would be no peace in the Middle East if Israel tampered with the demographic balance of Jerusalem to favour Jews at the expense of Arabs.

The Islamic Council of Dawah and Relief, headed by Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, the grand sheikh of Sunni Islam's highest institution, Al Azhar, denounced Israeli efforts to alter the Holy City's demography.

"The council rejects ... the Israeli administrative pressure to diminish the Arab Muslim and Christian populations and bring in great numbers of Jews," it said.

The council also criticised the construction of Jewish settlements around the city "with the aim of determining Jerusalem's destiny."

"If Israel continues its stubborn position on the Jerusalem issue, peace will be impossible, and the Middle East will remain a region of tension, generation after generation," it warned.

"The solution for the Jerusalem issue is to restore its sovereignty to its Arab people who understand the holiness of its sacred sites."

## Turkey starts Aegean wargames

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey launched military manoeuvres in the Aegean Sea Monday amid tension with Greece which in two days could extend its territorial waters from six to 12 nautical miles.

Greece is due to start its own exercises in the area this week despite a call from Washington to the two countries to reschedule the operations and the dispatching of a U.S. cruiser to the area.

Turkey is not a signatory to the international convention allowing Greece to extend its sea limits and has said that if Greece enforces them it will consider the move a warlike act.

The Turkish exercises, codenamed Seawolf 2-94, will involve sea and air units and continue until Nov. 23. Turkish military sources said.

Greek manoeuvres, called Nurus 94, are scheduled to start during the same period, also in international waters and airspace around the Aegean Sea.

Washington announced Friday it was dispatching the cruiser Cape Saint George to the Aegean to ensure an easing in tensions between the two countries, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies since 1952.

U.S. President Bill Clinton asked Turkey and Greece to defuse bilateral tensions by rescheduling their coinciding war games in the Aegean, the Anatolia news agency said Sunday.

The two states have indulged in a war of words in recent months over the sea rights issue. Greece has said it would not quit the two-year-old trading blocs. He repeated calls for a European regional security system open to both the West and the former Eastern block. "We are increasingly heading towards regional (security) systems and so we should create a European one," he said. The "woman of peace" award went to Hanan Ashrawi, the commissioner-general for the Palestinian Independent Committee for Citizens' Rights.

## COLUMN 8

### Bush, Gorbachev steal the show at conference

RIMINI, Italy (R) — George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, who as leaders of the United States and former Soviet Union helped bury the cold war, stole the show at an international brain-storming session for statesmen. Bathed in a sea of television lights, the two leaders who presided over the fall of the Berlin Wall and the re-unification of Germany embraced each other warmly at the gathering, in the Adriatic resort town of Rimini. Mr. Bush, handed the 1994 "Man of peace" award by the Pio Manza Institute which organises the annual event,

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### Band plays as Ireland crumbles

DUBLIN (R) — As the Irish government lurched towards collapse, the band played on. The Glenn Miller legacy to be precise, a 15-piece band playing in a Dublin hotel where the Labour Party was agitating over whether or not to quit the two-year-old ruling coalition. Musicians and dancers seemed unaware that the government's future was being decided, literally, over their heads. Meeting in the Oak Room above a typical Sunday afternoon tea dance, Labour Party leader Dick Spring and his fellow MPs could clearly hear the strains of La Bamba, New York, New York and other dance tunes. Downstairs more than 100 couples danced the foxtrot and other traditional ballroom steps to a series of show tunes.

"What's going on?" One elderly dancer asked journalists, as he went to the bar to collect drinks for himself and his cliffton-clad wife. Told of the crisis talk, he said: "Well, that's not going to stop me dancing. To hell with them."

According to airport sources in Palma de Mallorca, cited by state news agency EFE, the three hijackers were identified as Merzak Benachor, Madrid Arab and Mohammed Nedjar.

"There was no violence," airport director Pedro Merino said. "They said they represented no party, they just wanted to give a message to the world."

He said the three had been detained by Spanish authorities. Algeria's ambassador to Spain, Rahabi Abdul Aziz, said Algeria would not seek extradition. He said the country had no such treaty with Spain.

"We do have problems in our country, but this is no way to ask for changes. It can be done through democratic ways," Mr. Abdul Aziz said.

Seven hours into the stand-off, one of the hijackers left the plane to negotiate face-to-face with Algerian and Spanish officials. Reports said they offered to give up in exchange for political asylum.

Conditions of the surrender were not immediately clear.

The young men hijacked the plane 15 minutes into the flight, entering the cockpit and demanding it be diverted. Officials said the pilot suggested Mallorca as a destination, because the plane lacked enough fuel to land in France, the hijackers' first choice.

Spanish security forces surrounded the aircraft when it touched down but stayed at a "respectful distance," as hijackers demanded.

In the end, the three men

(Continued on page 7)